

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 3-10 are pending in the application. Claims 2 and 11-20 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 9, 10, 13 and 19 are objected to because of the noted informalities therein. In this regard the Examiner asserts that the recitation “inserted into the outer surface of the cylinder” of claim 9 is not supported by the specification and should read --inserted onto the outer surface of the cylinder--.

In response, claim 9 has been amended to change “inserted into the outer surface of the cylinder” therein to --inserted onto the outer surface of the cylinder--.

In the Office Action, claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choi, Korean Patent Application No. 10-2003-0066151 in view of Weeks, U.S. Patent No. 4,842,287. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A stirling cooler of a present embodiment recited in claim 1 includes, inter alia, a case provided with a cold tip at an end thereof, a cylinder fixedly installed in the case and provided with a piston reciprocating therein, a displacer installed in the piston such that the displacer can reciprocate, a regenerator positioned between the displacer and the cold tip, a heat exchanger connected to the regenerator and the cylinder, the heat exchanger including an inner heat exchanger installed in a heat exchange chamber positioned between the cylinder and the case, and an outer heat exchanger installed on an outer surface of the case opposite to the inner heat exchanger, and a packing positioned at an area in which the cylinder contacts the case. Further the packing is interposed

between a flange that protrudes from an outer surface of the cylinder and a stair of the case on which the flange is seated in a radial direction of the cylinder.

Applicant respectfully submits that the references relied upon in the rejections under 35U.S.C. 103(a), considered singly or in any proper combination, do not disclose such a combination of features. In particular, the packing as noted above is not taught or suggested by either of the applied references.

Choi does not disclose a packing, as the Examiner has indicated.

The Examiner appears to assert that Weeks discloses the packing in column 1, lines 10-23. However, Applicant respectfully submits that, although Weeks disclose “The most common seals used in pressurized devices are O-rings and gaskets composed of elastomeric compounds. These seals are generally positioned within mating grooves in adjacent parts.” (Column 1, lines 16-24), Weeks does not disclose or teach a packing 70 positioned at an area in which the cylinder 53 contacts the case 50 and interposed between a flange 55 protruding from an outer surface of the cylinder 53 and a stair of the case 50 on which the flange 55 is seated in a radial direction of the cylinder 53, as recited in amended claim 1.

Therefore, even assuming, arguendo, that the teachings of Choi and Weeks can be properly combined, the asserted combination of Choi and Weeks would not result in the invention as recited in amended independent claim 1. Thus, the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) is now moot.

Independent claim 1 is now in condition for allowance in view of the amendments and the above-noted remarks. Dependent claims 3-10 are also submitted to be in condition for allowance in view of their dependence from the allowable base claims and

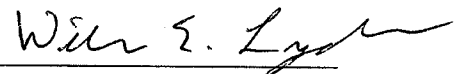
also at least based upon their recitations of additional features of the present invention. It is respectfully requested, therefore, that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn and that an early indication of the allowance thereof be given.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based on prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to be attached thereto.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jong Jin PARK



Bruce H. Bernstein

Reg. No. 29,027

William E. Lyddane

Reg. No. 41,568

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191